

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT SECRETARY

July 9, 2004

NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Water Quality 2321 Crabtree Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27604

Attn: Mr. John Hennessy

NCDOT Coordinator

Dear Sir:

Subject: Application for modification to Neuse Buffer Certificate for the NC 55

widening to a multi-lane facility from SR 1108 (Wake Chapel Road) to SR 1114 (Ralph Stevens Road) in Wake County. TIP No. R-2907, State Project No. 8.1403501, Federal Aid Project No. STP-55(5). WBS

Element 3.4515.3.2. NCDOT Division 5.

Reference: NCDENR

NCDENR-DWO Water Quality Certification Project No. 010681 and

USACE Permit No. 199700175.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is currently widening NC 55 to a multi-lane facility from SR 1108 (Wake Chapel Road) to SR 1114 (Ralph Stevens Road) in Wake County. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality (NCDENR-DWQ) issued a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate and Neuse Buffer Certificate on April 25, 2002. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a Section 404 Individual Permit on July 2, 2002. The project was let in August 2002, and construction has begun.

The purpose of this submittal is to modify the Neuse Buffer Certification. The modification of the certification is for the hydraulic design at Site 3. The revised design does not compromise NCDOT's compliance with the existing permit conditions. This modification application contains revised roadway construction plan sheets 17 and 18.

The revision has been evaluated for compliance with the avoidance/ minimization criteria and the Neuse Riparian Buffer Rules, and is in compliance with all previous issues, including the following:

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- Protected Species
- Aquatic Life passage
- FEMA compliance
- Cultural Resources

Summary of Changes

- 1. Site 3: Catch basins, 300 mm pipe structure and 375 mm pipe structure from Station 59+60 to 60+00 Left (see Permit Drawing 8 of 14 dated 11/29/01 and 9 of 14 dated 11/29/01)
- 2. Site 3: Catch basin and 375 mm pipe structure at Station 58+96 Right (see Permit Drawing 8 of 14 dated 11/29/01)

The NCDOT roadway design unit has recently revised the roadway due to a utility line conflict. Due to conflicts with an existing gas line, the super elevation for the left turn lane has been modified to drain away from the median. With this change in the super elevation, catch basins, a 300 mm pipe structure and a 375 mm pipe structure from Station 59+60 to 60+00 Left, and a catch basin and a 375 mm pipe structure at Station 58+96 Right have been eliminated from the roadway design. This change eliminates a point source discharge and provides sheet flow to the roadside ditch. Stormwater flows to the same point in the landscape through sheet flow instead of a point discharge. The hydraulics unit has indicated that the hydraulic design of the project remains in compliance with the riparian buffer rule. There are no additional impacts to riparian buffers from this revision.

3. Site 3: 900 mm pipe structure at Station 60+40 L (see Permit Drawing 9 of 14 dated 11/29/01)

The permit drawing and original plan sheet indicates the existing structure is a 900 mm pipe structure that would have been extended with a 900 mm structure as part of this roadway project. The stakeout of the structure during construction has indicated that the existing structure actually is a 750 mm pipe structure. Therefore, the hydraulic design has been revised to extend the existing structure with a 750 mm pipe structure. The hydraulics unit has indicated that the existing 750 mm structure is sufficient to convey water. There are no additional impacts to the stream from this revision.

Regulatory Approvals

Application is hereby made for the modification of the Neuse Buffer Certification from the NCDENR-DWQ. The revision of the permit site on this project remains in compliance with the Riparian Buffer Mitigation Program (15A NCAC 2B .0242) and the Neuse River Basin Riparian Buffer Rules (15A NCAC 2B .0233). Therefore, as part of the modification notification, we respectfully request that the NCDENR-DWQ note these changes and retain this information for any potential compliance check. We also request a letter from DWQ noting agreement with NCDOT's assessment that the revisions remain consistent with the existing Neuse Buffer Certification.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Mr. Matt Haney at (919) 715-1428 or (919) 715-1500.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D., Manager

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

cc: w/attachment

Mr. Eric Alsmeyer, USACE

Mr. Travis Wilson, NCWRC

Ms. Becky Fox, USEPA-Whittier, NC

Mr. Ronald Mikulak, USEPA-Atlanta, GA

Mr. Gary Jordan, USFWS

Mr. David Chang, P.E., Hydraulics

Mr. Greg Perfetti, P.E., Structure Design

Mr. Jon Nance, P.E., Division 5 Engineer

Mr. Chris Murray, Division 5 Environmental Officer

w/out attachment

Mr. Art McMillan, P.E., Highway Design

Mr. Jay Bennett, P.E., Roadway Design

Mr. Omar Sultan, Programming and TIP

Mr. Mark Staley, Roadside Environmental

Mr. David Franklin, USACE, Wilmington



